

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please **amend** Claims 13-18 as indicated:

1. (original) A storage device for recording data, the data being divided into multiple blocks and recorded on a recording medium, the storage device comprising:

an error detecting section for detecting a write error on the recording medium and acquiring error information about the write error;

a recording position determining section for:

defining a block gap on the recording medium, the block gap having a length determined by the error information about the write error, and

determining a recording position on the recording medium for a subsequent write that is the block gap away from a last error free write operation; and

a block writing section for writing a subsequent block of data to the recording position on the recording medium, wherein the length of the block gap provides both a no-write zone for subsequent writes as well as a description of the write error.

2. (original) The storage device according to Claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a magnetic tape.

3. (original) The storage device according to Claim 1, wherein the block gap is a length based on a prime number.

4. (original) The storage device according to Claim 3, wherein the recording position determining section further defines multiple said block gaps, wherein a product of the prime numbers indicates a maximum number of occurrences of a particular write error.

5. (original) The storage device according to Claim 1, wherein the block gap is larger than a normal storage space for one of the multiple blocks, such that a reading of a next block at a position that is farther from a previously written prior block than the normal storage space indicates a presence of the block gap, thus indicating a past write error.

6. (original) The storage device according to Claim 1, further comprising:
- an error information storing section for storing said error information in association with the recording positions of said multiple blocks;
  - a block reading section for reading the multiple blocks from the recording medium;
  - a recording position acquiring section for acquiring the recording positions on the recording medium where the respective blocks are recorded; and
  - an error information outputting section for selecting and outputting error information associated with the recording positions from the error information storing section.
7. (original) A method for recording data, the data being divided into multiple blocks and recorded on a recording medium, the method comprising:
- detecting a write error on the recording medium and acquiring error information about the write error;
  - defining a block gap on the recording medium, the block gap having a length determined by the error information about the write error;
  - determining a recording position on the recording medium for a subsequent write that is the block gap away from a last error free write operation; and
  - writing a subsequent block of data to the recording position on the recording medium, wherein the length of the block gap provides both a no-write zone for subsequent writes as well as a description of the write error.
8. (original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the recording medium is a magnetic tape.
9. (original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the block gap is a length based on a prime number.
10. (original) The method according to Claim 9, further comprising defining multiple the block gaps, wherein a product of the prime numbers indicates a maximum number of occurrences of a particular write error.

11. (original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the block gap is larger than a normal storage space for one of the multiple blocks, such that a reading of a next block at a position that is farther from a previously written prior block than the normal storage space indicates a presence of the block gap, thus indicating a past write error.

12. (original) The method according to Claim 7, further comprising:

storing the error information in association with the recording positions of the multiple blocks;

reading the multiple blocks from the recording medium;

acquiring the recording positions on the recording medium where the respective blocks are recorded; and

selecting and outputting error information associated with the recording positions from the error information storing section.

13. (currently amended) ~~A computer program product, residing on a computer usable medium, for recording data;~~ A computer readable medium encoded with a data structure, the data being divided into multiple blocks and recorded on a recording medium, the computer program product the data structure comprising:

program code for detecting a write error on the recording medium and acquiring error information about the write error;

program code for defining a block gap on the recording medium, the block gap having a length determined by the error information about the write error;

program code for determining a recording position on the recording medium for a subsequent write that is the block gap away from a last error free write operation; and

program code for writing a subsequent block of data to the recording position on the recording medium, wherein the length of the block gap provides both a no-write zone for subsequent writes as well as a description of the write error.

14. (currently amended) The computer ~~program product~~ readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the ~~recording medium~~ computer readable medium is a magnetic tape.

15. (currently amended) The computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the block gap is a length based on a prime number.

16. (currently amended) The computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium according to Claim 15, ~~further comprising wherein the data structure further comprises~~ program code for defining multiple the block gaps, wherein a product of the prime numbers indicates a maximum number of occurrences of a particular write error.

17. (currently amended) The computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the block gap is larger than a normal storage space for one of the multiple blocks, such that a reading of a next block at a position that is farther from a previously written prior block than the normal storage space indicates a presence of the block gap, thus indicating a past write error.

18. (currently amended) The computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium according to Claim 13, ~~further comprising wherein the data structure further comprises:~~

program code for storing the error information in association with the recording positions of the multiple blocks;

program code for reading the multiple blocks from the recording medium;

program code for acquiring the recording positions on the recording medium where the respective blocks are recorded; and

program code for selecting and outputting error information associated with the recording positions from the error information storing section.